

ABSTRACT

A hybrid telecommunications switch includes circuit and packet switch fabrics, and a controller. The controller is configured to map IP traffic into ATM service categories, to separate incoming IP from circuit switched traffic and to provide access, through a connection admission control (CAC) protocol to a circuit switched fabric for IP traffic. In one aspect of the invention, real-time traffic, such as voice traffic, may be separated from non-real-time traffic, such as Internet email traffic. Once separated, the real time traffic may be switched through a circuit switch fabric and the non-real-time traffic may be switched through a packet switch fabric. IP traffic, such as that mapped into CBR and rt-VBR ATM service categories may aggregated "on-the-fly", that is, without pre-provisioning, and switched through the hybrid switch's circuit switch fabric. IP traffic mapped into other ATM service categories is routed through a packet switch fabric.